NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2012

Resolution No. 36: Encourage all Posts of The American Legion to Appoint or Elect a Post Service Officer and Maintain an Active Service Program
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The December 2011 change to the Charter of The American Legion has created the need to edit the language within certain resolutions of the organization in order to bring a resolution into compliance with the Charter, the subject herein being one such resolutions; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion since 1919 has emphasized the need for a strong and active service program at the community level; and

WHEREAS, The Post Service Officer is an essential first link in the chain of service which The American Legion has pledged to provide all veterans and their dependents regardless of residence; and

WHEREAS, The Post Service Officer is in the best position to make contact with those veterans and dependents who need and are eligible for Federal benefits; and

WHEREAS, An active Post service program is an important membership factor in that it is a living demonstration of The American legion's "devotion to mutual helpfulness;" and

WHEREAS, The strength and quality of the service programs conducted by Department and National Headquarters of The American Legion are in large part dependent upon the strength and quality of service programs conducted by local Posts of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Information given the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission by Departments for consideration in the National Lenker Service Trophy Award indicates there are a substantial number of Posts of The American Legion that have neither an active Post Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee nor Post Service Officer; and

WHEREAS, The Commission believes that the absence of such Committee and Post Service Officer serves to lower the prestige of the Post and of The American Legion if members of the community must look elsewhere for assistance relative to claims for veterans benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, It appears that veterans benefits programs are increasingly under attack from various sources, thus rendering the service efforts of The American Legion more than ever important; and

WHEREAS, The Commission recommends that the National Headquarters of The American Legion should again urge that all Posts establish and support a Post Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee and to stress the need for an active working Post Service Officer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2012, That The American Legion encourage all Post Commanders to establish a standing Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourage all Post Commanders to appoint or elect an active, working and informed Post Service Officer.